

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner, Mr. Joseph Nguyen, for the courtesies extended to applicants' representative during the Telephonic Interview conducted on February 7, 2011, and for his assistance in furthering prosecution on the merits of the instant application. During the Telephonic Interview, the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 9 was discussed. An agreement was reached that an amendment to independent claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 5, and intervening dependent claim 3, would render claims 1 and 9 patentable. The following remarks take into account the content of the telephone interview.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 5-6 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-17 are now pending, with claims 1 and 9 being in independent form. Claims 3 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11 and 14-17 have been amended. Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled dependent claims 3 and 5. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-6 and 8 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled dependent claim 5 and intervening dependent claim 3. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9, as now amended, are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 6-8 and 10-17 are allowable because the independent claims are allowable. The amendments to dependent claims 2, 4, 6-11 and 14-17 clarify the wording of the

claims so that the claims remain consistent with independent claims 1 and 9. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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